

Amendments to the Claims:

1-27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:129; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253,

wherein the polypeptide stimulates is capable of stimulating endothelial cell growth or the polypeptide is induces capable of inducing proliferation of kidney mesangial cells.

29. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 28 encoding a polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:129; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253,

wherein the polypeptide stimulates is capable of stimulating endothelial cell growth or the polypeptide is induces capable of inducing proliferation of kidney mesangial cells.

30. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 28 encoding a polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130;

- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:129; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253,

wherein the polypeptide stimulates is capable of stimulating endothelial cell growth or the polypeptide is induces capable of inducing proliferation of kidney mesangial cells.

31. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 28 encoding a polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:129; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253,

wherein the polypeptide stimulates is capable of stimulating endothelial cell growth or the polypeptide is induces capable of inducing proliferation of kidney mesangial cells.

32. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 28 encoding a polypeptide having at least 99% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:129; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253,

wherein the polypeptide stimulates is ~~capable of stimulating~~ endothelial cell growth or the polypeptide is induces ~~capable of inducing~~ proliferation of kidney mesangial cells.

33. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130;
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130, lacking its associated signal peptide;
 - (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:129; or
 - (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253.
34. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 33 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130.
35. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 33 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:130, lacking its associated signal peptide.
36. (canceled)
37. (canceled)
38. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 33 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:129.
39. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 33 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:129.
40. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 33 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253.
41. (canceled)

42. (canceled)

43. (canceled)

44. (previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 28.

45. (previously presented) The vector of Claim 44, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

46. (previously presented) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 44.

47. (previously presented) The host cell of Claim 46, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.

48. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule at least 20 nucleotides in length that hybridizes under stringent conditions to:

- (a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 129 or a complement thereof;
- (b) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203253 or a complement thereof;

wherein, said stringent conditions use 50% formamide, 5 x SSC, 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.8), 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 5x Denhardt's solution, sonicated salmon sperm DNA (50 μ g/ml), 0.1% SDS, and 10% dextran sulfate at 42 °C, with washes at 42 °C in 0.2 x SSC and 50% formamide at 55 °C, followed by a wash comprising of 0.1 x SSC containing EDTA at 55 °C, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is suitable for use as a PCR primer or probe.

49. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 48 that is at least 50 nucleotides or above in length.

50. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 48 that is at least 60 nucleotides or above in length.

51. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 48 that is at least 70 nucleotides or above in length.

52. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 48 that is at least 80 nucleotides or above in length.

53. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 48 that is at least 90 nucleotides or above in length.

54. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 48 that is at least 100 nucleotides or above in length.